

Copper Country Dairy Records MS-418

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections

12/22/2010

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Summary Information

Repository	Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections
Creator	Copper Country Dairy, Inc..
Title	Copper Country Dairy Records
Date [bulk]	Bulk, 1931-1988
Date [inclusive]	1898, 1900; 1931-1988
Extent	1.35 cubic feet 4 manuscript boxes, 1 oversize folder
Language	English
Language of Material	English
Mixed materials [Folder]	47 O
Mixed materials [Box]	1-4
Abstract	Records, 1898-1988, of the Copper Country Dairy, Inc. of Dollar Bay, Michigan. Includes deeds and construction plans, financial records, inventory lists, distribution documents, marketing data and operational data as well as bankruptcy and closing documents and an embossing stamp. Also includes some records from the Copper Country Cheese Co-op, Inc.

Preferred Citation

MS-418, Copper Country Dairy Records, Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections, Houghton, Michigan.

Historical Note

The articles of incorporation for the Copper Country Dairy was signed on November 25, 1938 by nine dairy farmers in the Traprock River Valley including Erick Karvako, Oiva W. Niemi, Matt Koski, John Latva, Albert Koskela, Emil Waarala, Edward R. Willmers, Andrew Bylkas, and Charles Aittama. The Dairy purchased the Schulte Brothers Store in Dollar Bay in 1939 where it continued operations until it moved into a more modern building in Dollar Bay in 1954. The dairy experienced the beginning of a long line of financial problems in 1977. The Copper Country Dairy claimed that its prices were being undercut by three large national dairies-Hawthorne-Melody, Fremont Foods, and Borden. A lawsuit was filed against the three major dairies by Hancock attorney, Andrew Wisti. The dairy's problems continued in 1979 when the members of the Copper Country Dairy Employees Association went on strike. The wage dispute lasted from November 2 through November 14. In 1984 the dairy could no longer afford to pay its producers and fifty-sixty of its producers pulled out of the cooperative that year. It was due to the loss of so many of its producers that the Copper Country Dairy lost its license and bonding from the Michigan Department of Agriculture that same year. The Copper Country Dairy also did not have a permit for discharging its waste into a lagoon behind the dairy nor did it have a permit to haul its whey waste for application to agricultural fields. In July, 1985 the Dairy was managed by Dr. Jack McEowen, head of the Emergency Management Assistance Team for Agri-Business of the Cooperative Extension Office. The Copper Country Dairy ended operations on September 24, 1985 and filed for Chapter 7 Bankruptcy on September 30, 1985 at the Marquette Bankruptcy Court (Superior Signal, 2007, 3-5).

Collection Scope and Content Summary

Deeds and construction plans, financial records, inventory lists, distribution documents, marketing data and operational data as well as bankruptcy and closing documents and an embossing stamp. Also includes some records from the Copper Country Cheese Co-op, Inc.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into two series:

Series I, General Business Records: 1898, 1900; 1931-1988 Series II, Bankruptcy Records: 1974-1988

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections 12/22/2010

Revision Description

This collection was processed during the NHPRC grant funded Detailed Processing Project. 5/07/2013

Conditions Governing Access

Available for use in the Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections. A small number of the folders contain sensitive employee information. Access to these records is at the discretion of the University Archivist.

Conditions Governing Use

Various copying restrictions apply. Guidelines are available from Michigan Technological University Archives & Copper Country Historical Collections.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

One paige box containing records created by and relating to the Copper Country Dairy such as titles, deeds, bankruptcy records, invoices, income tax returns, mortgage, insurance, and court records as well as a Copper Country Dairy stamp was donated to the Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections by Kenneth Smith on September 10, 1989. Also included in this gift were records created by the Copper Country Cheese Cooperative.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Copper Country Cheese Co-op, Inc..
- Copper Country Dairy, Inc..

Genre(s)

- Deeds
- Financial records
- Inventories
- Records (Documents)

Geographic Name(s)

- Upper Peninsula (Mich.)

Subject(s)

- Cooperative societies--Michigan
- Dairy farms

Series I, General Business Records

Collection Inventory

Series I, General Business Records 1898, 1900; 1931-1988 (Bulk, 1931-1988)

Scope and Content Summary

Included in this series are warranty deeds, titles, vehicle registrations, tax records, inventory lists, marketing and operational data, construction contracts, blueprints of Clark Village, and an embossing stamp.

	Box	Folder
Copper Country Cheese Co-operative Bylaws 1931	1	1
Articles of Incorporation and Amendments 1937-1939; 1955-1967	1	2
Warranty Deeds and Titles 1898, 1900; 1953-1967	1	3
Warranty Deeds and Titles 1948-1972; 1984	1	4
Agreements 1939-1960; 1971	1	5
American Dairy Association of Michigan 1943	1	6
Construction Plans and Contracts 1953, 1962, 1975	1	7
Land O' Lakes and U.P. Development Bureau Memberships 1956, 1972	1	8

Series I, General Business Records

Copper Country Dairy Employees Association Contract 1973	1	9
Bank Transaction and Loan Records 1939; 1949-1980	1	10
Conditions Governing Access		
Some of the material in this folder contains sensitive employee information. Access is at the discretion of the University Archivist.		
Bank Loan and Transaction Records 1941-1966; 1986-1988	1	11
Bank Loan and Transaction Records 1959-1984	1	12
Exemplification of Record, Arthur Pikkarainen 12/07/1972	1	13
Tax Records 1/2 1942; 1951-1970	2	1
Tax Records 2/2 1942-1972	2	2
Insurance Policies 1962; 1972-1976	2	3
Inventory and Operating Lists; Vehicle Registrations 1969-1988	2	4
Vender Settlement Contracts 1981-1982	2	5
Pension Records 1986-1988	2	6
Copper Country Dairy Interim Report 8/15/1985	2	7

Series II, Bankruptcy Records

Marketing and Operating Data 1983-1985	2	8
General Financial Records 1948; 1974-1985	3	1
General Business Records 1985	3	2
	Box	Item
Copper Country Dairy Embossing Stamp [1940?]	4	1
		Folder
Osceola Township, Sec.33, T.55 N.-R. 33 W. (Village of Clark) Undated		47o
Osceola Township, Sec.33, T. 55 N.-R. 33 W. (Village of Clark) Undated		47o
Plat of the Village of Clark Undated		47o
Series II, Bankruptcy Records 1974-1988		
Scope and Content Summary		
This series contains bankruptcy and closing records.		
	Box	Folder
Bankruptcy/ Closing Documents 1974-1986	3	3
Conditions Governing Access		
Some of the material in this folder contains sensitive employee information. Access is at the discretion of the University Archivist.		

Series II, Bankruptcy Records

Bankruptcy/ Closing Documents 1985-1988

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